(c) and (d) The reason for NSC not honouring its commitment in East Godavari district is not the resource crunch but due to the issue being subjudice.

(e) The financial obligations are met as per powers already delegated to the Regional Managers as the payments are decentralised at Regional level. In Andhra Pradesh, the payments have been further decentralised upto Area Office level to ensure timely payments to the farmers.

Credit Facilities to NGOs from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

2308. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NGOs who obtained credit facilities from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, State-wise;

(b) the amount sanctioned to each NGO till now alongwith their schemes;

(c) whether there is any State guarantee to this credit; and

(d) the present recovery position?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) Details are given in the Annexure. [*See Appendix 179, Annexure No. 52*]

(c) State guarantees are not an essential requirement in all cases. Guarantee from the State of Jammu & Kashmir has been received from the State Government against the credit limit of Rs. 20.00 lakh sanctioned to the Women Development Corporation of Jammu & Kashmir.

(d) The average recovery position is 90 per cent.

New Policy on Agriculture

2309. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts from the International Rice Research Institute and Indian farm scientists have stressed the need for a new policy on Agriculture;

(b) if so, whether Government have received representations about bottlenecks in the existing policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the new policy would be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) (a) to (d) There has been a general demand for formulation of a new Agriculture Policy. A draft Agriculture Policy prepared by the Government was discussed in Parliament in August, 1995. The draft is under finalisation keeping in view the suggestions made by the Members of Parliament and the concerned Ministries/ Departments.

Criteria for Assistance for Development of Colleges

2310. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission (UGC) have received applications for assistance/grant to develop colleges in Gujarat and other States;

(b) whether any criteria has been adopted by the UGC for allocation of the said grant;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increasing the area of Mushroom cultivation

2311. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase areas under Mushroom cultivation in the country;